COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No-call on Svi's layup could serve as a rallying cry 1B

FYI MOVIES

Streep, Hanks a joy to watch in 'The Post' 5A

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Partly sunny 23°/10° See 10B

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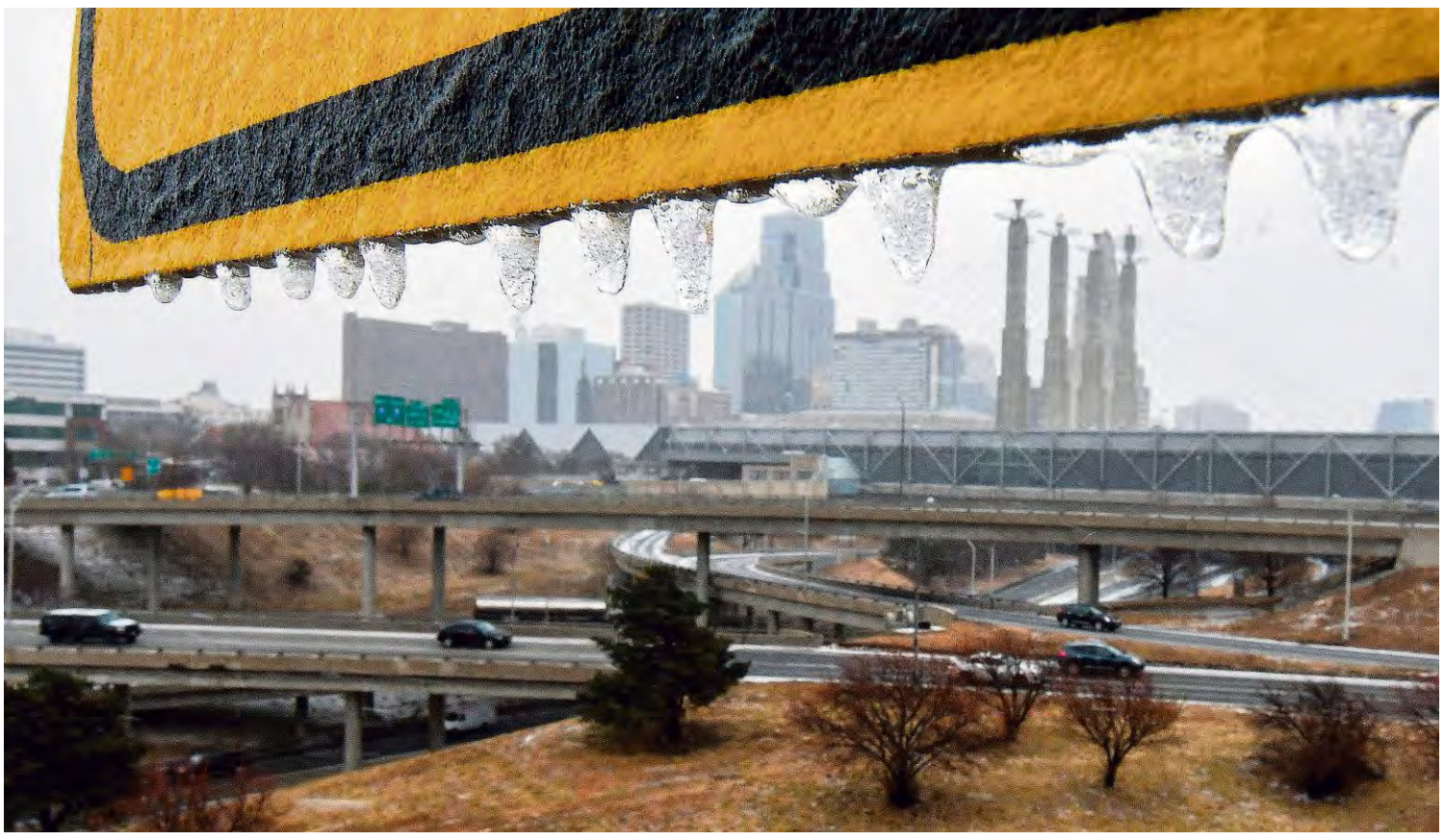

JOHN SLEEZER jsleezer@kcstar.com

Freezing rain left icicles on a sign overlooking downtown Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday.

MORE INSIDE Bitter cold, clouds to greet KC-area students' return to school Friday. **See story, 6A**

Greitens to face criminal inquiry

BY BRYAN LOWRY
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JEFFERSON CITY

The prosecutor for the city of St. Louis will investigate blackmail allegations against Gov. Eric Greitens that threaten to end his political career.

The allegations, first reported by KMOV in St. Louis, surfaced shortly after Greitens delivered his annual State of the State address Wednesday night. The ex-husband of Greitens' mistress gave the TV station an audio recording of the woman confessing the affair and accusing Greitens of blindfolding her and taking a nude photo against her will to blackmail her into silence.

St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner announced late Thursday afternoon that her office would launch an investigation into Greitens' actions.

Her decision came shortly after Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley's office indicated that it lacked jurisdiction on the matter and after several Missouri lawmakers called for Greitens' resignation.

"The serious allegations against Missouri Governor Eric Greitens are very troubling," Gardner, a former Democratic member of the Missouri House, said in a statement. "After further consideration, I have decided to launch a formal investigation into the alleged actions of Governor Greitens.

"It is essential for residents of the City of St. Louis and our state to have confidence in their leaders."

Greitens, a Republican who has been working to build a national profile, has admitted to the extramarital affair but

SEE AFFAIR, 2A

MORE INSIDE
Governor's office insists it's cooperating with attorney general inquiry **2B**

Trump's insulting words on immigration set off alarms

BY JOSH DAWSEY
Washington Post

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump grew frustrated with lawmakers Thursday in the Oval Office when they floated restoring protections for immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and African countries as part of a bipartisan immigration deal, according to several people briefed on the meeting.

"Why are we having all these people from shithole countries come here?" Trump said, according to these people, referring to countries mentioned by the lawmakers.

Trump then suggested that the United States should instead bring more people from countries like Norway, whose prime minister he met with on Wednesday. The president, according to a White House official, also suggested he would be open to more immigrants from Asian countries because they help the United States economically.

In addition, the president singled out Haiti, telling lawmakers that immigrants from that country must be left out of any deal, these people said.

"Why do we need more Haitians?" Trump said, according to people familiar with the meeting. "Take them out."

The comments left lawmakers taken aback, according to people familiar with their reactions. Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and Richard Durbin, D-Ill., had proposed cutting the visa lottery program by 50 percent and then prioritizing countries already in the system, a White House official said.

A White House spokesman defended Trump's position on immigration without directly addressing Trump's remarks. White House officials did not dispute the account.

"Certain Washington politicians choose to fight for foreign countries, but President Trump will always fight for the American people," spokesman Raj Shah said in a statement issued after The Washington Post first

SEE IMMIGRATION, 6A

EVAN VUCCI AP

President Donald Trump, shown Tuesday, used profane language to disparage African nations, El Salvador and Haiti in a meeting Thursday about a proposed bipartisan deal on immigration.

Mayor Pro Tem's wife bounced from construction firm PR job after vote against Edgemoor

BY BILL TURQUE
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It was either political payback or a prudent business decision.

On the morning of Dec. 15, Laura Ray Wagner got a phone call from Bill Clarkson Jr., head of Clarkson Construction and a partner with Edgemoor, the developer struggling to win the contract for construction of the new single terminal at KCI.

Wagner, a marketing and public relations consultant, had spent the last several years as a contractor for Clarkson, a politically connected, family-owned company. She handled communications on various big Clarkson ventures, including the Johnson County Gateway road project and the Christopher S. Bond Bridge.

Laura Ray Wagner

That all ended with the phone call.

A day earlier, her husband, Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner, had voted to reject a proposed agreement with Edgemoor. Wagner was part of a council supermajority that found the memorandum of understanding lacking on multiple fronts.

"He wasn't happy with me after my husband voted no on the MOU (memorandum of understanding)," she said. "He said he was sorry but that he couldn't do business with me, considering everything. He told me he was sorry but he was just mad."

Clarkson said Wednesday evening that her dismissal had nothing to do with her husband's vote. It had everything to do, he said, with avoiding any appearance of possible conflict of interest while negotiations continue between Edgemoor and the city — even though Laura Wagner has never worked on KCI matters for the firm.

"We made a business decision because we what we heard (from attorneys) at that time was that there cannot be any semblance of of a conflict of interest," he said. "There was no malice when I talked to Laura."

SEE CONSTRUCTION, 3A

BUSINESS

DST SYSTEMS AGREES TO BUYOUT OFFER

Kansas City-based DST Systems, with 4,000 area employees, has agreed to a buyout by a rival. **10A**

BUSINESS

BURT RESIGNS FROM VISIT KC

The chief executive of Visit KC, the Kansas City convention and tourism promoter, has announced that he will resign. **10A**

BUSINESS

CHILDREN'S MERCY HOSPITAL

Powered by $150 million in charitable donations, the hospital broke ground Thursday on a new research tower. **10A**

LOCAL

KANSAS RACE FOR GOVERNOR

Secretary of State Kris Kobach is lagging behind Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer and other candidates in donor contributions. **4A**

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